

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.05.20	<p>"Opening outdoor hospitality. PM 'It will be like Damascus' and souks then everyone pointed out 'not quite like Damascus'. Raised concerns with Simon Case re the tone of what is being proposed & with Chris and me being part of somehow a political message. Simon says - hospitality will come out of the package - Let's see. It really does have to. -Let's see. CW and I very reluctant to do the press conference. It is highly political and will be focussed on DC. PM seems very bullish and wants to have everything released sooner and more extremely than we would. Wants to divert from the DC fiasco (caught have gone to Durham - clearly against the rules). All very worrying. Cabinet all upbeat and 'breezy confidence' - incredibly alarming. 'Al fresco shopping all like a wonderful middle east souk' ... It was another rambling opening to Cabinet. Quite extraordinary. Did say 'not there yet on outside hospitality'.</p>	45

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23.06.20	"Inde SAGE widely seen as having sewn confusion with unions and schools in May/June by pretending to be SAGE."	73

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
13.07.20	"The ridiculous flip-flopping is getting worse - maybe as he recovers?"	88

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14.09.20	"Simon Case from a couple of days ago - 'PM not exactly a consistent interlocutor'."	156

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19.09.20	"PM [...] He is all over the place and completely inconsistent. You can see why it was so difficult to get agreement to lockdown 1st time."	167

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28.10.20	"The right wing press are culpable & we have a weak indecisive PM."	243

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.05.20	<p>"Chris and I not at all keen to do the press conference. All highly political and dwarfed by DC. We tried to get out of it by suggesting that it was not the right day to announce new measures and that this would undermine our credibility. No luck - Simon Case had a go but to no avail.... We both went in but then spoke to Stuart G who spoke to PM. We interrupted listening to DC's rambling and car crash conference to speak to PM. He got immediately that this was too political for us and that it put us in an awkward position. The apparatchiks tried to strong arm us (Lee, James and even Martin his PPS). DC came back from his press conference and said "you two shouldn't be involved" - we got out! Yvonne Doyle did it - just did study and then all over to PM."</p>	46

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
09.07.20	"PM cancelled the big announcement and has gone more cautious (for now). Simon Case taking 1 day at a time. PM is simply not consistent (as he wasn't at the beginning)."	85